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CORDRY, Charles  
Hart, Gary  
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# U.S. held lagging on monitoring SALT

By CHARLES W. CORDRY  
Washington Bureau of The Sun

Washington—Senator Gary Hart (D., Colo.) said yesterday the United States is at something of a low point in its ability to keep tabs on Soviet compliance with an arms limitation pact.

His surprising comment, in a meeting with newsmen, touched on what is expected to be one of the major issues in Senate debate on the emerging strategic arms limitation treaty (SALT): the ability of the United States to determine satisfactorily with its own means that Moscow is living up to the treaty.

Mr. Hart is a member of the Senate Armed Services and Intelligence committees. He tends to support the SALT agreement but has not signed on irrevocably.

While Senator Hart had no doubt the treaty could be monitored, he said the United States is "a little bit in a trough now" on verification measures.

This is only partly a result of reduction in monitoring facilities in Iran, he indicated, and relates more to the development of the next generation of surveillance satellites.

Satellites circling the earth make continuous checks on Soviet strategic nuclear forces as well as other military arms. The United States suffered a setback—though not a major one, officials contend—when a former Central Intelligence Agency employee allegedly gave a Soviet agent the technical manual for the KH11 reconnaissance satellite for \$3,000.

The former employee, William P. Kampiles, was convicted of espionage last November. The Russians apparently had not realized the KH11 was a photo-satellite until they received the manual.

Mr. Hart did not discuss the KH11 sit-

uation yesterday. But he clearly indicated that more capable satellites than those now in use are under development for service in the 1980's.

Regardless of present problems, he contended, "we have the capability to verify [compliance with] this treaty."

Mobile ground stations and aircraft operating outside the Soviet frontiers, as well as satellites, can make up for loss of monitoring facilities in Iran, he said. He added that he understood the main facility in Iran was still functioning.

The new satellites of the 1980's, Mr. Hart indicated, will leave the United States less dependent on facilities in other countries where political change can bring swift reversals.

In Iran, according to other sources, the U.S. Air Force had equipment for monitoring Soviet communications, but it has now been shut down. The CIA facilities there tracked Soviet weapons and monitored telemetry—transmitted data—from missile tests. One CIA facility at least, with equipment valued at \$500 million, had been destroyed deliberately to keep it from unfriendly hands, the sources said.

Senator Hart, discussing the SALT situation in the Senate, said the prospect for the administration is less bleak.

He estimated as many as 40 senators now may favor the treaty while about 20 oppose it. Approximately 40 then are in the "legitimately undecided" category. Treaty ratification requires support of two-thirds of the senators.

Mr. Hart said critics were better organized and the administration had "failed" to educate the public on the merits of the nuclear weapons limitations provided in the treaty.

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